The next morning he confronted his sister and ordered her to stop giving him Spanish Flies. Again, her agitation is interpreted as guilt. His mother and his brother tell him it is all "foolishness." Unfortunately, and inexplicably, he told his doctor that he suspected arsenic poisoning, which the doctor informed him was inconsistent with his symptoms. He subsequently tried to board with friends, but was unable to remain away for a sufficiently long test period, because of his "nervousness."

The failure of a subsequent test period, his sister's two month absence in the summer, to confirm his favourite hypothesis, led him to have his father take him to "Dr. Clark the clairvoyant." While Metcalfe is satisfied with Clark's describing his condition "to perfection," he is disappointed that he did not mention poisoning.

Meanwhile Metcalfe began to doubt that his mother really was his mother, arguing that her remarking how much he resembled her when there was not "the slightest resemblance," was only her way of protesting too much.

Metcalfe recounts being interviewed by Dr. Ogden and, a few days later, Dr. Clark. Dr. Ogden said nothing after his initial examination, but he records Clark's remark after his that "this thing will have to be looked into." That, Metcalfe writes, is the last he has heard from them.

Thus Metcalfe's letter is written between examination and confinement. It being superior to anything the doctors obtained from him, it is perhaps not surprising that he asks his unnamed addressee to "send a good doctor well up in such things to examine me, and show him this letter." Despite his plea that it not be made public "at present anyway," it must have been discovered by the doctors, or by the bailiff, seized, and inserted in his file. The strange qualification indicates that Metcalfe anticipated its eventual release, perhaps because he intended to use it one day against his mother, whom he hopes his addressee will send a detective to arrest, the poison still "on her."

(Asylum Aristocracy: The Chain of Life)[lxix]

A 51 year old Presbyterian Scottish "housekeeper," Mrs. Highborn had been committed to the Asylum by Governor-General's Warrant on December 30,